Intercensal population updates

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Further information are available via:
www.destatis.de/kontakt
Telefon: +49 (0)611 75 4865

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Summary

1 General information on the statistics

Statistical population: the total of inhabitants that are registered, or should be registered, in Germany in accordance with registration law.

Statistical units: the basic statistical unit is the cohort: a group of persons with the same demographic characteristics who live in the same regional unit. For every cohort, the number of persons belonging to the cohort is rolled forward (see also 1.2).

Reference area: municipalities, administrative districts, Länder, and Germany

Frequency of data collection: monthly, quarterly and annual (see also 1.5).

Reference period: the reference date is the last day of the relevant month, quarter or year. In addition, an annual average population is determined (see also 2.1.3).

2 Content and user needs

Statistical presentation: in intercensal population updates, the number and composition of the population by demographic variables and the relevant change are determined.

User needs: ministries, municipalities and authorities, for instance, for equalisation of revenue between Länder/municipalities, to hold elections, for planning, the scientific community, authorities and organisations, the media, the press, individuals and the general public.

3 Methodology

Source data: calculations based on complete counts, no grossing up

Data collection: the results are calculated in a decentralised way by the statistical offices of the Länder for their territory and are combined by the Federal Statistical Office for Germany as a whole.

Data processing: the results of the latest population census (currently: 2011 Census) are rolled forward in a breakdown by sex, age, marital status and citizenship, using both statistics of population change (migration, births, deaths, entering into marriages or registered same-sex partnerships) and information on changes in citizenship and the dissolution of marriages or registered same-sex partnerships.

4 Accuracy and reliability

Overall accuracy: data quality is generally considered to be good. It is however indispensable to regularly adjust the figures through a population census because the results get less accurate with the time that has elapsed since the last census (see also 4.1).

Revisions: rebasing to a new base year involves back calculations (see also 4.4).

5 Timeliness and punctuality

Timeliness of final results: monthly results are available four months after the end of the reference month and first annual results in August of the subsequent year.

Punctuality: delays occurred in the last few months due to legal and technical changes.

6 Comparability

The method has remained largely unchanged since 1950. Effects of territorial changes on the results have to be taken into account for comparisons over time at the regional level. Breaks in the time series may occur as a consequence of a new population census.

7 Coherence

Statistical coherence: intercensal updates are included in the calculation of key figures such as birth rates, life tables, marriage rates and the like and are the basis of the regular official population projections. Also, the updates are the basis for grossing up the microcensus sample results. There is no coherence with the results of the statistics of foreigners, which are based on the Central Register of Foreigners (see 7.1).

8 Dissemination and communication

Dissemination format: the results are released on the website, in the GENESIS-Online user database, in a separate Fachserie and in cross-section publications.

9 Comment

None
1 General information on the statistics

1.1 Statistical population

Intercensal population updates cover all inhabitants that are registered, or should be registered, in Germany in accordance with registration law. In the underlying census results, the survey population consists of persons who should be registered. The number of persons registered was adjusted for persons registered but not resident (outdated register entries) and for persons resident but not registered (missing entries). The continuous rolling forward of census results takes account of data on registrations and deregistrations with the registration offices of persons moving in or out of a dwelling, and data on births and deaths recorded at the registrar's offices and regarding persons with a residence in Germany.

Allocation to a domestic municipality is based on the place of sole or main residence. The population covered includes both the German and the non-German (foreign) population living in Germany. Persons who have a residence in Germany and further residences abroad are regarded as part of the population.

People who are exempted from the obligation to register in accordance with Section 14 of the Registration Framework Act of April 2002 (until October 2015) or Section 26 of the Federal Registration Act (members of foreign armed forces stationed in the country and of foreign diplomatic missions and consular posts, including their families) are not part of the survey population.

Persons staying temporarily in Germany (visitors, seasonal workers and the like) are counted as part of the population if they are registered with the registration authorities. No general minimum duration of stay is applicable for coverage in intercensal population updates. However, pursuant to the Registration Framework Act of April 2002, the Länder may grant exemptions from the obligation to register in the case of temporary residence. Since November 2015, a general exemption from the obligation to register has applied for a duration of stay of under 3 months, pursuant to Section 27 (2) of the Federal Registration Act.

1.2 Statistical unit

The basic statistical unit is the cohort, that is, a group of persons with the same demographic variables (year of birth, sex, citizenship, marital status) in the smallest regional unit. For every cohort, the number of persons belonging to the cohort is rolled forward.

Since the 2011 Census, three parallel, consistent cohort systems have been maintained:

- At the municipality level, the cohorts are defined through the personal variables of year of birth, sex and citizenship (German/non-German).
- At the level of administrative districts, the cohorts are defined through the personal variables of year of birth, sex, citizenship (German/non-German), and marital status.
- At Land level, the cohorts are defined through the personal variables of year of birth, sex and citizenship (specified).

1.3 Reference area

Results are shown for municipalities, administrative districts, Länder, and the territory of the Federal Republic of Germany in accordance with the List of Municipalities of the Federal Statistical Office. Territorial changes (e.g. incorporation of municipalities into larger ones, incorporation or spinning off of parts of municipalities, or divisions of municipalities) are continuously integrated. The data for Germany relate to the Federal Republic of Germany as from 1950 and to its territory since 3 October 1990. Since reference year 2000, the data for the former territory of the Federal Republic have related to the Federal Republic and its territory until 3 October 1990, excluding Berlin-West. The data for the new Länder relate to the Länder of Brandenburg, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, Sachsen, Sachsen-Anhalt and Thüringen, the data for Berlin relate to the whole of Berlin. From 1990 up to and including 2000, Berlin-East was included under the new Länder and Berlin-West under the former territory of the Federal Republic. At the Federal Statistical Office, the data are available down to the level of administrative districts while, at the statistical offices of the Länder, they are available in more detailed regional breakdowns.

1.4 Reference period

The reference date is the last day of the relevant month, quarter or year.

In addition, an annual average population is determined (see also 2.1.3).

1.5 Frequency of data collection

Intercensal population updates are produced monthly. The monthly data include only a few variables (sex and citizenship (German/non-German)). The annual data reflect the population as at 31 December each year and provide a breakdown by sex, citizenship, age, marital status and, as an annual average, by age and year of birth. Data on the population development (see 2.1.1) are provided, too.
1.6 Legal acts and other agreements
What applies at the level of federal law, is the Act on the Statistics of Population Change and on Intercensal Population Updates - Population Statistics Act (BevStatG).


1.7 Confidentiality
1.7.1 Confidentiality - policy
The individual data collected are always kept confidential in accordance with Section 16 of the Federal Statistics Act (BStatG). Only in a small number of exceptional cases explicitly regulated by law may individual data be passed on. Universities or other institutions tasked to perform independent scientific research may be supplied with individual data, in accordance with Section 16 (6) of the BStatG, for the conduct of research projects. Such individual data have to be anonymised in a way that identifying the relevant respondents or parties concerned requires unreasonable effort in terms of time, cost and manpower. Persons receiving individual data are also obliged to maintain confidentiality.

1.7.2 Confidentiality - data treatment
An intercensal population update is the result of a calculation; small values are to be considered as inexact. If, for example, the update contains one person in a specific cohort, in reality there might be none or more than one. This is to ensure that individuals cannot directly be identified. Practically, as small values are inexact, the data are provided in an adequate form of aggregation.

1.8 Quality management
1.8.1 Quality assurance
All data included in intercensal population updates were previously subject to a variety of measures that are applied to assure the quality of the data in the statistical production process. Data received are subject to continuous plausibility checks. This ensures that possible transmission and response errors can be minimised. The quality assurance measures carried out at the various stages of statistical production are adjusted and supplemented, if necessary, with standardised quality assessment and assurance methods. By holding expert meetings in cooperation with the statistical offices of the Länder, consistent procedures are ensured.

As regards the quality of data included, please refer to the quality reports concerning the statistics used. The data included in intercensal population updates are administrative data. If an authority obliged to provide data detects errors in its data, it corrects them and sends the corrected data to the responsible Land statistical office, so that the intercensal population update can be corrected. In particular, the registration offices inform the statistical offices when a previously registered person is no longer resident and has been deregistered ex officio.

The IMF standards regarding the number of inhabitants of Germany are met (annual certification).

1.8.2 Quality assessment
As all elements of intercensal population updates (migrations, births, deaths, changes of citizenship) are based on complete counts, the results are considered as precise (see also 4.1). However, the completeness of data also depends on the citizens’ compliance with registration regulations and on the quality assurance measures taken by the registration and registrar’s offices in maintaining the registers.

The system of intercensal population updates ensures high coherence of the different sets of population statistics (including population census) because all statistics included in the updates have to be produced using the same concepts, definitions and classifications. The components of population development (births, deaths, migrations) are consistent. It is a disadvantage that delays in producing statistics to be included have a direct negative impact on the punctuality of the updates.

2 Content and user needs
2.1 Statistical presentation
2.1.1 Data description
Intercensal population updates are produced to determine the current population, its composition and its change. Among other things, the number of inhabitants at municipality level is determined. In accordance with Section 5 of the Population Statistics Act, this is done by covering the population living in Germany as a total and separately by sex, age, marital status, municipality and citizenship.

Data provided monthly are the numbers of inhabitants and selected key figures in a regional breakdown (municipality, administrative district, Land, see also 1.5).
Data provided annually are the numbers of inhabitants and the demographic structures in regional breakdowns for reference date 31 December of the reference year and as annual averages (see 1.5), and the population development by components (births, deaths, migrations, changes of citizenship).

### 2.1.2 Classification system

The following classifications are used: Territory as at the relevant month [https://www.destatis.de/DE/ZahlenFakten/LaenderRegionen/Regionales/Gemeindeverzeichnis/Gemeindeverzeichnisse.html](https://www.destatis.de/DE/ZahlenFakten/LaenderRegionen/Regionales/Gemeindeverzeichnis/Gemeindeverzeichnisse.html) (Available in German language only) and, for intercensal updates based on the 2011 Census, the Classification of States and Territories [https://www.destatis.de/DE/Methoden/Klassifikationen/Bevoelkerung/StaatsangehoerigkeitGebietsschluessel.html](https://www.destatis.de/DE/Methoden/Klassifikationen/Bevoelkerung/StaatsangehoerigkeitGebietsschluessel.html) (Available in German language only).

For data supplied to international organisations, international classifications are taken as a basis (Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics-NUTS, countries according to the ISO code).

### 2.1.3 Statistical concepts and definitions

Determining the age of the population is based on their year of birth. People of a specific birth cohort are allocated to the single year of age they belong to at the end of the year (example for reference year 2012: year of birth 2012 = year of age 0 to under 1; year of birth 2011 = year of age 1 to under 2, etc.).

For intercensal updates, persons considered as foreigners are all persons who are not Germans as defined in Article 116 (1) of the Basic Law. This includes stateless persons and those with "uncertain" citizenship. Germans who have another citizenship are not counted as foreigners. Asylum seekers are part of the foreign population. They are covered by population statistics as soon as they have registered in accordance with registration regulations. Generally, registration in accordance with registration regulations is done at the initial reception centre, unless there is a different Land regulation, and irrespective of whether an asylum application has been filed.

For intercensal updates based on the 2011 Census, data by individual citizenship are shown at Land level. People with several citizenships are shown only under their first citizenship. The registration offices determine the order of citizenships according to this pattern: German, EU citizenship, rest of Europe, rest of the world.

Four marital statuses were covered until 2011: single, married, divorced and widowed. Persons with other marital statuses were grouped under "single". Since the updates have been based on the 2011 Census, three additional marital statuses have been shown: registered same-sex partnership, registered same-sex partner deceased, and registered same-sex partnership dissolved.

The monthly data are based on the territory as at the relevant month. The calculation of annual data (average population) is based on the territory as at December for the entire year.

Until 2011, the average number of inhabitants for a calendar year was the arithmetic mean of twelve monthly averages. A monthly average is calculated on the basis of the current population at the beginning and at the end of the relevant month. For census years, the result of the census was often used as the annual average. Since 2011, the calculation of the average population has been simplified, now using the arithmetic mean between the number at the beginning of the year and that at the end of the year. To calculate the annual average of the population by age, the average between the number of a single year of age at 31 December of the relevant year and that of the preceding year is used.

Since reference year 2013, all EU countries have provided a total number of the population for reference date 31 December in accordance with the requirements of the definition of the population "at their usual residence". A standard definition is contained in Article 4 of the EU Regulation 1260/2013 on European demographic statistics. A major aspect of the European definition is the 12-month criterion. This means that persons are counted as usual residents of a country only if their (actual or intended) duration of residence is at least 12 months. However, persons who have departed for less than 12 months continue to be part of the usually resident population.

The overlap between the population shown by intercensal updates and the population at their usual residence is considerable. There are differences regarding groups of persons who are covered according to the German concept of intercensal population updates, but who are not covered by the definition of the population at their usual residence. Persons who, at the reference date, were staying just temporarily in Germany and were registered are counted for intercensal population updates, whereas they are not covered under the population at their usual residence. In turn, the European definition of the population at their usual residence includes groups of persons who are not included according to the German concept of intercensal population updates. Persons who, at the reference date, were deregistered because of temporary departure to another country are not counted for intercensal updates, whereas they are included in the population at their usual residence. To determine the population at their usual residence for reference date 31 December 2013, the groups of persons described above were estimated and added to, or subtracted from the result of the intercensal population update.

### 2.2 User needs

In many ordinances, the numbers of inhabitants are a major basis for, among other things, the distribution of Länder votes in the Bundesrat, the proportion of turnover tax revenue allocated to the Länder, the equalisation of revenue between the Federation and the Länder, the definition of constituency borders and polling district sizes, and general planning.
In addition, population figures and demographic structures provide basic data in many economic and scientific fields. They are also needed as a frame or reference value for various sets of statistics.

Key users of intercensal population updates include the federal ministries and authorities, municipalities, Land ministries and authorities, special-purpose associations and international organisations. Other users of intercensal population updates are business associations, the scientific community, the media and the press, individuals, and the general public.

In addition, the population figures are used by many international organisations (UN, EU, OECD).

Data can be calculated for all administrative regional breakdowns and for non-administrative units which consist of municipalities (e.g. Eurostat classification by degree of urbanisation). It is however not possible to determine population data for non-administrative units that are not composed of municipalities. This includes, among other things, geo-referenced data.

Also, the country of birth is not part of the demographic variables shown because the legal framework conditions required were not in place when the 2011 Census was conducted.

2.3 User satisfaction

The interests of key users are considered in various ways: Changes to the existing survey programme requested by ministries can be implemented at the national level by amending the respective legislation. Furthermore, the federal ministries, statistical offices of the Länder, municipal central associations and economic and scientific communities are represented in the Statistical Advisory Committee which, in accordance with Section 4 of the Federal Statistics Act, provides the Federal Statistical Office with consultation in basic matters. Subject-matter related issues and suggestions are addressed by the specialist committee on population statistics set up by the Statistical Advisory Committee.

In the context of changing over to the 2011 Census, the citizenship variable in intercensal population updates was extended to include individual citizenships rather than just German/non-German to meet user requirements.

3 Statistical processing

3.1 Source data

In accordance with Section 5 of the Population Statistics Act, the latest population census is the basis for producing intercensal population updates. The last census was conducted in 2011. The data on the population as a whole and those by age and sex are rolled forward using statistical results on natural population change (births, deaths) and on migrations across municipal borders, which have been compiled on the basis of administrative data. The basic data for the statistics of births and of deaths are provided by the registrar’s offices. In regional terms, births are allocated to the mother’s place of residence, deaths to the place of residence of the deceased person. The basic data for migration statistics are provided by the registration authorities (see also quality reports on the statistics mentioned). To roll forward data by citizenship, information on changes in citizenship is needed in addition. Up to 2013, either data from the registration offices on changes in citizenship or data from naturalisation authorities in accordance with Land law were used. Since 2014, data from the registration offices on changes in citizenship have been used as a standard all over Germany.

To roll forward data by marital status, additional information is used on marriages and dissolutions of marriage and, since the 2011 Census, data on the establishment and dissolution of registered life partnerships have been used. The basic data on marriages and establishments of registered life partnerships are provided by the registrar’s offices. In regional terms, the data are allocated to the indicated place of residence of the spouses or life partners. The basic data on dissolutions of marriage and of registered life partnerships are provided by the family courts. Since 2014, the registration offices have also provided data on changes in marital status caused by dissolutions of marriage and of registered life partnerships for intercensal population updates because the regional allocation of the persons concerned is more detailed in these data than in the data from the family courts.

3.2 Data collection

Intercensal population updates are calculated in a decentralised way by the statistical offices of the Länder for their territory in the common data processing system of the Federation and the Länder and are made available to the Federal Statistical Office. The data from the authorities obliged to provide information that are integrated in intercensal updates are collected by the statistical offices of the Länder through a full enumeration within the scope of producing the statistics of population change (see relevant quality reports).

3.3 Data compilation

The individual data sets of the statistics included in intercensal updates are added to the relevant cohort (births, arrivals) or subtracted from it (deaths, departures). Where a person changed his/her citizenship, one person is mathematically subtracted from the cohort of the old citizenship and one person is added to the cohort of the new citizenship. The same procedure is applied in cases of change in marital status. Prior to their inclusion in intercensal updates, it is ensured in all statistics that all data required in intercensal updates for cohort identification are actually available in all data sets. Any missing data are completed through queries with the authority obliged to provide information or are imputed (see relevant quality reports).
Corrections reported by the registration or registrar's offices regarding data supplied earlier are taken into account as early as possible. However, the population figures are not corrected retrospectively.

The numbers of inhabitants and the various breakdowns are obtained by aggregating the cohorts. The Federal Statistical Office compiles the federal result by adding the Länder results.

When there has been a territorial change, all included data sets based on the old territorial code are recoded to the new territorial code and the population at the beginning of the year is recalculated for the new territory based on these data, so that the annual data can be produced.

As the calculation is based on complete enumerations, no grossing up is required.

For the calculation of intercensal population estimates, the population changes that occurred after the last census are included. In the various sets of statistics, different temporal definitions are applied. Consequently, it may happen that the population changes shown in the population balance differ from the results of the relevant statistics (births, deaths, migrations).

3.4 Adjustment
Intercensal population updates are not adjusted for calendar or seasonal effects. The focus is on absolute figures and on the development in the last year or quarter. As these are influenced by seasonal effects only in a small number of local cases, there is no need for seasonal adjustment.

3.5 Cost and burden
Intercensal population updates are calculated on the basis of statistics collected previously. Consequently, no direct response burden is involved.

4 Accuracy and reliability
4.1 Overall accuracy
Intercensal population updates are compiled as part of a standard recording procedure using data checked by the statistical offices of the Länder. The quality of intercensal population updates depends to a large extent on the quality (completeness, accuracy) of the statistical results included in the calculation. In turn, the quality of these data depends on the quality of the data provided and of the register maintenance by the authorities obliged to provide information (registration and registrar's offices) and on the citizens' compliance with registration regulations. Given the current framework conditions, intercensal population updates are the only coherent method available between two censuses to continuously determine the number of inhabitants and the demographic structures of the population. The quality of the underlying statistics, especially regarding the variables relevant for the updates, is generally considered to be good. However, intercensal population updates require regular adjustments through stocktaking by way of a new population census. As time elapses since the last census, inaccuracies (overcoverage or undercoverage in individual groups of the population) occur in the intercensal population updates.

A global assessment of accuracy of the intercensal population updates can be achieved by comparing the population figures before and after the 2011 Census. The comparison shows that after more than 20 years without adjustments, the intercensal updates have correctly reflected the demographic structures and that they have had to be adjusted by a total of less than 2% for the whole of Germany. The quality of intercensal population updates can thus be considered as very good at the federal and Land levels. In some municipalities and for some population groups, there was more need for adjustment. For example, the difference for the foreign population was roughly 15% for the whole of Germany. The comparison suggests that intercensal population updates are less accurate for highly mobile groups of the population.

4.2 Sampling error
As this is a complete count, sampling errors cannot occur.

4.3 Non-sampling error
Persons entering or leaving the population are not included if births, deaths or migrations were not recorded by the relevant statistics. For example, persons departing to another country and failing to deregister lead to an overcoverage of the population living in Germany. However, persons who regularly cannot be contacted are deregistered ex officio, with new residence unknown, by the registration offices. Such deregistrations are reported to the statistical offices within the scope of migration statistics. In such cases, there is an inaccuracy as to whether the relevant persons still live in Germany or have moved abroad. Until 2015, it was assumed for calculating intercensal population updates that Germans have remained in Germany and foreigners have moved abroad. Since 2016, Germans who have been deregistered with new residence unknown, have no longer been counted as part of the population.

4.4 Data revision
4.4.1 Data revision - policy
There are no regular revisions; only final results are provided in general.

Methodological revisions are carried out only when a new base year is introduced after a population census.
4.4.2 Data revision - practice

After the population censuses of 1970 and 1987 had been conducted in the former territory of the Federal Republic, key figures of the average population were recalculated for the period between the population censuses at the federal level.

The last revision referred to the period since reference year 2011 and was caused by the 2011 Census. In several steps, the results as from reference year 2011 published earlier and based on the preceding censuses were revised using data from the 2011 Census. Based on the first census data released on 31 May 2013, a first calculation of key figures was performed (population as a whole and broken down by sex and citizenship (German/non-German)); the total number of inhabitants is final, whereas the breakdowns are provisional. Providing first provisional results was discontinued in September 2014 when more recent data were available.

- Based on the complete census results released on 10 April 2014, a first revision of the key figures was performed, with an additional breakdown by age. Towards the end of 2015, the production of such provisional results will be discontinued.

- The final intercensal updates, including all breakdowns, are calculated on the basis of census results that have been adjusted exclusively for the updates.

Back-calculation: a complete back-calculation is carried out only back to the reference date 1 January 2011. Also, a back-calculation of the population figures based on the 2011 Census is planned for methodological purposes. The results of the back-calculation are used only for adjustment of statistical time series and results; they are no official revision of the numbers of inhabitants obtained previously up to reference year 2010. Within the scope of a multi-stage back-calculation, the following results are determined on the basis of the 2011 Census:

1) The current population as at 1 January 2011 at municipality level, with the variables of age, sex and citizenship.

2) The average population for 2010 by year of birth and sex at Land level.

3) The average population by sex and citizenship (German/non-German) at Land level for 2008 and 2009.

4) The average population as a whole at Land level for the years 1991 to 2007.

4.4.3 Data revision - analysis

To analyse the impact of the census on the population figures and the demographic structures, data are available for the years 2010, 2011, 2012 and 2013. These data are updates based on the population census of 1987 and on the evaluation of the population register of the former GDR as at 3 October 1990, and updates based on the 2011 Census.

For an estimation of the revision effect see also 4.1.

5 Timeliness and punctuality

5.1 Timeliness

Monthly results are available about 4.5 months after the end of any month from January to November and 5.5 months after the end of December. The first annual results are available in August of the subsequent year.

5.2 Punctuality

Delays regarding the statistics to be included and complicated territorial changes affect the punctuality of intercensal population updates. Delays of several weeks occurred frequently in the last few years due to legal changes and technological changeovers.

6 Comparability

6.1 Comparability - geographical

To a large extent, the data are processed using the same method and the same procedure, so that the geographical comparability within Germany is considered as very good.

At the European level, the data sources and collection methods used are not harmonised. For data transmission to Eurostat, the European regulations EC 862/2007 and EU 1260/2013 use the definition of the population at their usual residence (see 2.1.3). However, alternative definitions are also allowed, so that there is no complete comparability. However, a narrower definition and better comparability apply for the calculation of the national population for European purposes in accordance with Article 4 of Regulation EU 1260/2013 (among other things, for determining the qualified majority in the EU). To obtain this figure, a special calculation is carried out in Germany (see 2.1.3).

6.2 Comparability over time

For the period before 1950, only data for census years are available; however, the underlying territory is not always clearly defined. Since 1950, the time series on intercensal population updates have been available. In the former GDR, too, the current population between two censuses was updated from 1950 to 1990; for the period before 1991, not all breakdowns are completely available for the new Länder and Berlin-East.

Breaks in the time series may occur after population censuses. Population censuses were held in the former territory of the Federal Republic in 1950, 1956 (census of buildings and housing), 1961, 1970 and 1987. In the former GDR, the
population censuses of 1950, 1964, 1970 and 1981 and an evaluation of the Central Population Register as at 3 October 1990 provided the basis for intercensal population updates.

For comparisons over time of the results of intercensal population updates at the regional level, it should be noted that changes occurred due to territorial changes. For example, the comparability of results by municipality or administrative district in a specific Land with previous year’s results is limited if municipalities were incorporated into larger ones or if there was a territorial reform in the reference year. As changes in larger regional units (e.g. Länder) are usually rare, the comparability over time is good at this level.

For sub-annual use of data on the German or the non-German part of the population, is should be noted that, in some Länder, changes in citizenship and naturalisations were included every year in December, rather than monthly, up to and including reference year 2013.

7 Coherence

7.1 Coherence - cross domain

Data on the foreign population in Germany are published both from the statistics of foreigners and from intercensal population updates. However, the two sets of statistics have different purposes. Intercensal population updates examine the structure of the foreign population in the context of the total population or of the German population, whereas the statistics of foreigners provide variables (citizenship, duration of stay, residence status) which are not available in the updates, or have been available only since the 2011 Census.

The statistics of foreigners provide data on the foreign population based on an evaluation of the Central Register of Foreigners (AZR). Due to different definitions, the numbers of foreigners differ between AZR evaluations and intercensal population updates. For intercensal population updates, all foreigners are counted who are registered with the registration offices. Generally, the numbers of foreigners from the AZR must be lower than those from the intercensal updates because the AZR covers only those foreigners in Germany who are not staying here just temporarily. Only those foreigners are covered in the AZR who are staying for more than 3 months in Germany or who have applied for a residence title. It is therefore not possible to directly compare the data on the foreign population shown in these two sources.

Corresponding to the differences regarding the subject-matter of the surveys, the figures of the foreign population from the AZR were an average of less than 2% lower than those from intercensal population updates between 1980 and 2003. A first marked difference resulted from an internal AZR adjustment between 2000 and 2003. This led to a reduction of the number of foreigners in the AZR by 617,750 (less 8.4%). A second break in the long-term relation between the number of foreigners from the AZR and that from intercensal population updates occurred in 2011. The 2011 Census readjusted the current population for the first time since 1987 (former territory of the Federal Republic) and 1990 (new Länder). The correction regarding the number of overcovered and undercovered persons led to a decrease in the foreign population in Germany by roughly 1,079,000 persons (less 14.8%). For legal and methodological reasons it was not possible to correct the AZR in a similar way at the same time. Consequently, intercensal population updates have shown lower numbers of foreigners than the AZR since 2011.

It is not possible to clearly determine whether the difference shown is entirely due to the causes mentioned above and to what extent the different data collection methods and reporting channels lead to different results.

7.2 Coherence - internal

Data on the current population as obtained from intercensal population updates, data on natural population change, and data from migration statistics form a consistent system as the same definitions, delimitations and classifications are used.

7.3 Input for other statistics

Intercensal population updates are included in the calculation of key figures such as birth rates, life tables, marriage rates and the like and are the basis of the regular official population projections. Also, the current population figures are the basis for grossing up the sample results of household surveys. In addition, they are used as a reference value for many other statistics (income per capita, etc.).

8 Dissemination and communication

8.1 Dissemination format

News release

There are regular press releases on annual results.

Publications

- annual Fachserie.
- results of intercensal population updates are published online and can be accessed through this link: https://www.destatis.de/EN/FactsFigures/SocietyState/Population/CurrentPopulation/CurrentPopulation.html

More information on the publication of intercensal population updates after the 2011 Census is available here:
Once published, the data are permanently accessible through the online database of the Federal Statistical Office (GENESIS) and the >Regional Database for Germany< of the Federation and the Länder:

https://www-genesis.destatis.de/genesis/online/link/tabellen/12411* (Available in German language only)
https://www.regionalstatistik.de/genesis/online?sequenz=statistiktabellen&selectionname=12411 (Available in German language only)

Micro-data access

For the compilation of the numbers of inhabitants, the statistical offices of the Länder provide the Federal Statistical Office (Destatis) with aggregated data files on the cohorts, broken down by sex, age, marital status and German/non-German at the level of administrative districts. Microdata are not available at the individual level.

Other

Data at municipality level are available at, and published by, the statistical offices of the Länder. See also publications of the Federal Institute for Population Research.

http://www.bib-demografie.de/EN/Home/home_node.html

Data on the population (total/male/female) for individual municipalities can be accessed through an online search in the List of Municipalities Information System (GV-ISys).

http://www.statistik-portal.de/Statistik-Portal/gemeindeverz.asp (Available in German language only)

8.2 Documentation on methodology


https://www.destatis.de/DE/Publikationen/WirtschaftStatistik/2015/04/ErmittlungEinwohnerzahlen_042015.pdf (Available in German language only)

Ausgangsdaten der Bevölkerungsfortschreibung aus dem Zensus 2011

https://www.destatis.de/DE/Publikationen/Thematisch/Bevoelkerung/Bevoelkerungsstand/DatenBevoelkerungsfortschreibungZensus.html (Available in German language only)

8.3 Release policy

Release calendar

The release dates of intercensal population updates are contained in the weekly preview of the Federal Statistical Office (Destatis) rather than in the release calendar. The weekly preview is publicly available.

Release calendar access

https://www.destatis.de/EN/PressServices/Press/preview/Preview.html

User access

The publication of intercensal population updates is not restricted to specific user groups. The data are available to all users at the same time.

https://www.destatis.de/EN/FactsFigures/SocietyState/Population/Population.html

9 Comment

None